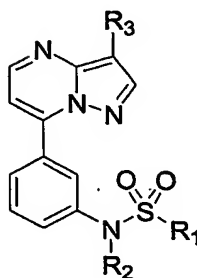


CLAIMS

1) - A compound of formula (I):



(I)

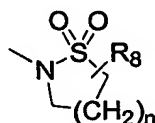
as well as pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof;
wherein

R₁ is selected from the group consisting of alkyl(C₁-C₆),
alkenyl(C₂-C₆), ω,ω,ω-trifluoroalkyl(C₁-C₆), cycloalkyl(C₃-
C₆), cycloalkyl(C₃-C₆)alkyl(C₁-C₆), -O-alkyl(C₁-C₆), -NH-
alkyl(C₁-C₆), -N(dialkyl(C₁-C₆)), alkyl(C₁-C₆)-O-alkyl(C₁-
C₆), alkyl(C₁-C₆)-NH-alkyl(C₁-C₆), alkyl(C₁-C₆)-N(dialkyl(C₁-
C₆)), phenyl, monosubstituted phenyl, disubstituted phenyl,
phenylalkyl(C₁-C₆), phenylalkenyl(C₂-C₆), furyl, substituted
furyl, isoxazolyl, substituted isoxazolyl, pyrazolyl,
substituted pyrazolyl, thienyl, substituted thienyl,
thiazolyl, substituted thiazolyl, pyridyl and substituted
pyridyl;

R₂ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen,
alkyl(C₁-C₆), alkenyl(C₂-C₆), alkynyl(C₂-C₆) and
cycloalkyl(C₃-C₆);

or else

R₁ and R₂ form a cycle having the structure:



wherein n is an integer 1, 2 or 3;

R₃ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, alkyl(C₁-C₆), cycloalkyl(C₃-C₆), alkenyl(C₂-C₆), alkynyl(C₂-C₆), -O-alkyl(C₁-C₆), halo-alkyl(C₁-C₆), -CN, -SO₂-R₄, -NH-R₄, -NR₄R₅, -COR₆, -CO-NHR₆, -COOR₆, -C(NR₇)R₆, phenyl, substituted phenyl, heteroaryl and substituted heteroaryl;

R₄ and R₅ are independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl(C₁-C₆), cycloalkyl(C₃-C₆), aryl and heteroaryl;

R₆ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl(C₁-C₆), alkenyl(C₂-C₆), alkynyl(C₂-C₆), cycloalkyl(C₃-C₆), phenyl, substituted phenyl, furyl, substituted furyl, thienyl, substituted thienyl, thiazolyl, substituted thiazolyl, pyridyl and substituted pyridyl;

R₇ is selected from the group consisting of alkyl(C₁-C₆), cycloalkyl(C₃-C₆), -OH, -O-alkyl(C₁-C₆), alkyl(C₁-C₆)-O-alkyl(C₁-C₆), alkyl(C₁-C₆)-NH-alkyl(C₁-C₆), alkyl(C₁-C₆)-N(dialkyl(C₁-C₆)), phenyl, monosubstituted phenyl, furyl, thienyl, thiazolyl and pyridyl; and

R₈ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl(C₁-C₆), cycloalkyl(C₃-C₆), aryl and substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl;

with the proviso that simultaneously:

R₁ may not be p-tolyl and R₂ methyl and R₃ benzoyl; and

R₁ may not be p-tolyl and R₂ ethyl and R₃ furyl-2-carbonyl.

2) - A compound according to claim 1, wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently as defined in formula (I) and R₃ is a cyano group.

3) - A compound according to claim 2, wherein R₁ is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, i-propyl, n-butyl, phenyl and 4-methoxyphenyl; and

R₂ is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, i-propyl, n-butyl, cyclopropyl and 2-propynyl.

4) - A compound according to claim 2, wherein R₁ and R₂ jointly form a 1,3-propylene group.

5) - A compound according to claim 1, wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently as defined in formula (I) and R₃ is a thiophene-2-carbonyl group.

6) - A compound according to claim 5, wherein R₁ is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, i-propyl, n-butyl, 2-phenylethenyl, 2,2,2-trifluoroethyl, phenyl, 2-chlorophenyl, 3-chlorophenyl, 4-chlorophenyl, 2,4-dichlorophenyl, 3,4-dichlorophenyl, 2-cyanophenyl, 3-cyanophenyl, 4-cyanophenyl, 4-methoxyphenyl, 3-nitrophenyl, 4-nitrophenyl, 2-thienyl, 5-methyl-4-isoxazolyl, 5-methyl-2-trifluoromethyl-3-furyl, 4-(4-morpholinyl)-3-pyridyl, 2,4-dimethyl-5-thiazolyl, cyclopropyl, benzyl, vinyl, 3,5-dimethyl-4-isoxazolyl, 1,3,5-trimethyl-4-pyrazolyl and cyclopentylmethyl; and R₂ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, i-propyl, n-butyl, cyclopropyl and 2-propynyl.

7) - A compound according to claim 5 wherein R₁ and R₂ jointly form a 1,3-propylene group.

8) - A compound according to claim 1, wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently as defined in formula (I) and R₃ is a benzoyl group.

9) - A compound according to claim 8 wherein R_1 is selected from the group consisting of methyl and ethyl; and R_2 is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl and 2-propinyl.

5

10) - A compound according to claim 1, wherein R_1 and R_2 are independently as defined in formula (I) and R_3 is a 4-fluorobenzoyl group.

10

11) - A compound according to claim 10 wherein R_1 is selected from the group consisting of methyl and ethyl; and R_2 is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl and 2-propinyl.

15

12) - A compound according to claim 1, wherein R_1 and R_2 are independently as defined in formula (I) and R_3 is a 4-methylbenzoyl group.

20

13) - A compound according to claim 12 wherein R_1 is selected from the group consisting of methyl and ethyl; and R_2 is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl and 2-propinyl.

25

14) - A compound according to claim 1, wherein R_1 and R_2 are independently as defined in formula (I) and R_3 is a 4-methoxybenzoyl group.

30

15) - A compound according to claim 14 wherein R_1 is selected from the group consisting of methyl and ethyl; and R_2 is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl and 2-propinyl.

16) - A compound according to claim 1, wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently as defined in formula (I) and R₃ is a 5-methyl-1,2,4,-oxadiazol-3-yl group.

5 17) - A compound according to claim 16 wherein R₁ is methyl and R₂ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and ethyl.

10 18) - A compound according to claim 1, wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently as defined in formula (I) and R₃ is a pyridyl-2-carbonyl group.

15 19) - A compound according to claim 18 wherein R₁ is selected from the group consisting of methyl and ethyl; and R₂ is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl and 2-propinyl.

20 20) - A compound according to claim 1, wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently as defined in formula (I) and R₃ is a pyridyl-4-carbonyl group.

25 21) - A compound according to claim 20 wherein R₁ is selected from the group consisting of methyl and ethyl; and R₂ is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl and 2-propinyl.

30 22) - A compound according to claims 2 and 3, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:
N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-methyl-methanesulfonamide;
N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-ethyl-methanesulfonamide;

N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-methyl-benzenesulfonamide;

N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-ethyl-benzenesulfonamide;

5 N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-prop-2-ynyl-methanesulfonamide;

N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-propyl-ethanesulfonamide;

10 N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-ethyl-ethanesulfonamide;

N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-prop-2-ynyl-propane-2-sulfonamide;

N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-methyl-ethanesulfonamide;

15 N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-butyl-ethanesulfonamide;

N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-methyl-2-propanesulfonamide;

20 N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-ethyl-2-propanesulfonamide;

N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-butyl-2-propanesulfonamide;

N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-propyl-2-propanesulfonamide; and

25 N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-prop-2-ynyl-ethanesulfonamide.

23) - A compound according to claim 4 wherein said compound is 7-(3-(2-isothiazolyldinyl-1,1-dioxide)-phenyl)-3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidine.

30

24) - A compound according to claims 5 and 6, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

5 N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-benzenesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-benzenesulfonamide;

10 N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-propyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

15 N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-propanesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

20 N-butyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-propanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-propanesulfonamide;

25 N-propyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-propanesulfonamide;

N-butyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-propanesulfonamide;

30 N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-phenylethanesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2,2,2-trifluoroethanesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-chlorobenzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-3-chlorobenzenesulfonamide;

5 N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-4-chlorobenzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2,4-dichlorobenzenesulfonamide;

10 N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-3,4-dichlorobenzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-cyano-benzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-3-cyano-benzenesulfonamide;

15 N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-4-cyano-benzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-3-nitro-benzenesulfonamide;

20 N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-4-nitro-benzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-thiophenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-5-methyl-4-isoxazolyl-sulfonamide;

25 N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-trifluoromethyl-5-methyl-3-furyl-sulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-6-(morpholin-4-yl)-3-pyridyl-sulfonamide;

30 N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2,4-dimethyl-5-thiazolyl-sulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-cyclopropylsulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-benzylsulfonamide;

5 N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-vinylsulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-3,5-dimethyl-4-isoxazolyl-sulfonamide;

10 N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-1,3,5-trimethyl-4-pyrazolyl-sulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-propanesulfonamide;

15 N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-butanesulfonamide; and

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-cyclopentylmethanesulfonamide.

20 25) - A compound according to claim 7 wherein said compound is 7-(3-(2-isothiazolyldinyl-1,1-dioxide)-phenyl)-3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidine.

25 26) - A compound according to claims 8 and 9 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(benzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(benzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

30 N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(benzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(benzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(benzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide; and
N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(benzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide.

5

27) - A compound according to claims 10 and 11 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(fluorobenzene-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

10

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(fluorobenzene-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(fluorobenzene-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

15

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(fluorobenzene-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(fluorobenzene-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide; and

N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(fluorobenzene-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide.

20

28) - A compound according to claims 12 and 13 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methylbenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

25

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methylbenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methylbenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

30

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methylbenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methylbenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide; and

N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methylbenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide.

29) - A compound according to claims 14 and 15 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide; and

N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide.

30) - A compound according to claims 16 and 17 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

N-{3-[3-(5-methyl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-yl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide; and

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(5-methyl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-yl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide.

31) - A compound according to claims 18 and 19 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide; and

5 N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide.

32) - A compound according to claims 20 and 21 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

10 N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

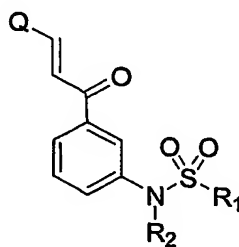
15 N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide; and

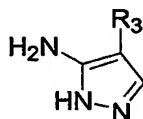
20 N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide.

33) - A process for preparing a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,
25 according to claim 1, comprising reacting intermediate (II):



(II)

wherein R_1 and R_2 are as defined in (I) and Q is an appropriate leaving group selected from the group consisting of $N(\text{dialkyl}(C_1-C_6))$, alkylthio(C_1-C_6) and alkoxy(C_1-C_6), with intermediate (III):



(III)

wherein R_3 is as defined in (I) and alternatively, treatment of the compounds of claim 1, in the form of free base, with an acid to form a salt thereof.

34) - A process according to claim 33, comprising utilizing the intermediate of formula (II) where Q is selected from the group consisting of dimethylamino, methylthio and methoxy.

35)- A method for treating or preventing diseases associated with $GABA_A$ receptor modulation in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

36) - A method for treating or preventing diseases associated with α_1 - $GABA_A$ receptor modulation in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

37)- A method for treating or preventing diseases associated with α_2 - $GABA_A$ receptor modulation in a mammal

which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

5 38) - A method for treating or preventing anxiety in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

10 39) - A method for treating or preventing epilepsy in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

15 40) - A method for treating or preventing sleep disorders in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

 41) - A method for treating or preventing insomnia in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

20 42) - A method for inducing sedation-hypnosis in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

25 43) - A method for inducing anesthesia in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

30 44) - A method for modulating the necessary time to induce sleep and its duration in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

45) - A method for inducing muscle relaxation in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

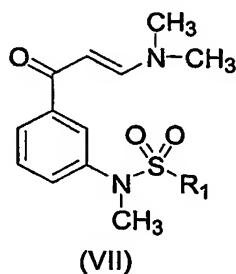
5 46) - A composition comprising a compound of claim 1 in association with a therapeutically inert carrier.

10 47) - The use of a compound of claim 1 for preparing a medicament for treating or preventing diseases associated with GABA_A receptor modulation.

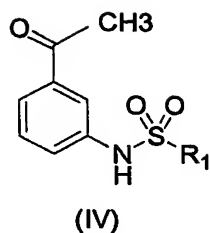
48) - The use of claim 47 wherein the diseases are associated with α_1 -GABA_A or α_2 -GABA_A receptor modulation.

15 49) - The use of a compound of claim 1 for preparing a medicament for treating or preventing anxiety, epilepsy, sleep disorders, insomnia, for inducing sedation-hypnosis, anesthesia or muscle relaxation or for modulating the necessary time to include sleep and its duration.

20 50) - A process for preparing the intermediate of formula (VII):



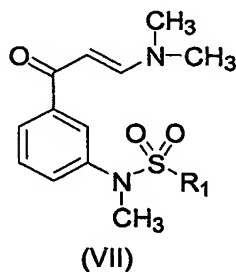
25 wherein R₁ is as described in (I), characterized by the reaction of the intermediate of formula (IV):



wherein R_1 is as described above, with N,N-dimethylformamide dimethyl acetal.

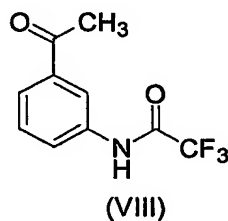
5

51) - A process for preparing the intermediate of formula (VII):



10

wherein R_1 is as described in (I), characterized by the reaction of N-(3-acetylphenyl)-2,2,2-trifluoroacetamide (VIII):



15

and N,N-dimethylformamide dimethyl acetal, followed by the formation of sulfonamide by reaction with the corresponding sulfonic acid chloride.

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